

Message Text

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42

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 OC-06 CCO-00 AF-05 EB-05 INR-10 CIAE-00

(ISO) W

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P R 121435Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8069

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

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AIDAC

PASS STATE FOR OC

ACCRA FOR RCO

REF: STATE 120353

1. TWO COLLINS KWM 2A'S WERE REQUESTED ON URGENT BASIS FOR FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

(A) ON SITE REPORTING: LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS (LOC'S) BETWEEN NIAMEY AND REMOTE AREAS OF NIGER ARE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT. IT IS FORESEEABLE THAT INFORMATION ON AN EMERGENCY SITUATION COULD TAKE THREE OR FOUR DAYS, OR EVEN LONGER, TO HANDCARRY BACK TO NIAMEY.

(B) SECURITY: BECAUSE OF THE VASTNESS OF THE COUNTRY, POOR LOC'S AND SPARSE POPULATION MUCH OF NIGER IS INDEED REMOTE. IN ORDER TO VISIT MANY OF THE R/R SITES, AS WELL AS MANY OF THE ISOLATED REFUGEE CENTERS YOU MUST DRIVE CROSS COUNTRY THROUGH EXTREMELY ROUGH TERRAIN, I.E., SAND AND ROCK, NOT UNLIKE LUNAR LANDSCAPE. IN BRIEF, IF THE VEHICLE BREAKS DOWN WHILE IN TRANSIT TO ONE OF THESE REMOTE AREAS, THE PROBLEMS ARE SERIOUS. RECENTLY INSPECTOR GENERAL TODD WAS BRIEFED ON THIS PROBLEM AND NOT ONLY CONCURRED WITH THE NEED FOR RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, BUT FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT EACH AID/EMBASSY FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE BE EQUIPPED

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WITH AN AIRCRAFT BEACON LOCATOR (EBL).

2. OPERATION: IT IS INTENDED TO MOUNT ONE RADIO IN THE SAHEL R&R VEHICLE WITH THE SECOND RADIO BEING INSTALLED IN THE ADO'S OFFICE. THERE IS SUFFICIENT TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN NIAMEY TO ALLOW FOR PROPER INSTALLATION AND DETAILED MAINTENANCE WITHOUT HAVING TO DRAW UPON EMBASSY OR RCO SUPPORT. AT THIS TIME IT IS INTENDED THAT RADIOS BE USED ONLY WITHIN NIGER.

4. REQUEST PRORITY RESPONSE, INCLUDING FIRM EQUIPMENT ETA.

5. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: WE ARE DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT OC'S PLANS FOR NETWORK SERVING ENTIRE SAHEL AREA WHICH COULD FILL IMPORTANT NEED (REFTEL). HOWEVER, PENDING DEVELOPMENT SUCH NETWORK STRONGLY RECOMMEND APPROVAL AND PURCHASE ABOVE EQUIPMENT WHICH URGENTLY NEEDED FOR HIGH PRIORITY RAVEL RELATED TO OUR DROUGHT RELIEF ACTIVITIES. WE HAVE HAD ONE OR TWO NEAR MISSES ON TRIPS INTO MORE REMOTE PARTS OF COUNTRY AND I AM RELUCTANT TO APPROVE FURTHER TRIPS OF THIS NATURE IN SPITE OF THEIR IMPORTANCE TO OUR EFFORTS HERE UNLESS VEHICLES USED HAVE THIS COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY.
HECK

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